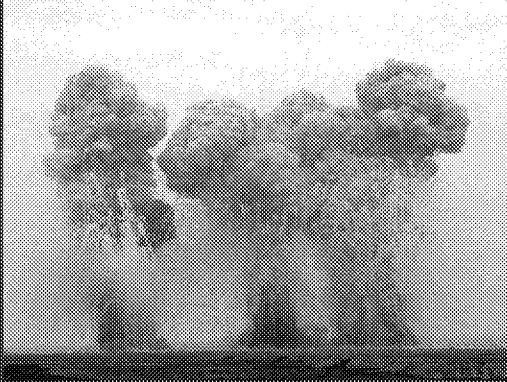


# Alternative Treatment Technologies to Open Burning/ Open Detonation



BY RYAN GINSBURG

Scale of problem and quick disclaimer

# Types of Energetic Materials

- ▶ Military Munitions
- ▶ Commercial/ Display and Consumer Fireworks
- ▶ Marine, Roadside, and Signal Flares
- ▶ Automobile Airbag Explosives
- ▶ Hobby Rocket Propellants



# Users of Energetic Materials

- ▶ Government Possession
  - ▶ Department of Defense
  - ▶ Park Service
  - ▶ Law Enforcement\*
  - ▶ NASA
- ▶ Private Sector Possession
  - ▶ Mining, Demolition, Construction Industries
  - ▶ Automobile and Airline Industries



# Basic Considerations for Alternatives

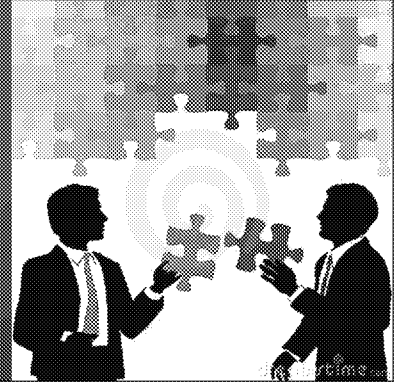
1. Can we produce more environmentally friendly explosive materials?
2. What parts of the explosive ordnances can we reuse/recycle?\*
3. How can we dismantle explosive ordnances?\*
4. How can we permanently desensitize explosive ordnances?\*
5. How can we finish with as close to zero waste as possible?\*

\*safely → effectively → efficiently → cheaply in the name of preventing a situation like the one that you can see here →



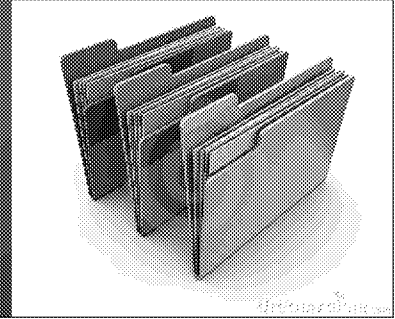
# Methods for Identifying Alternative Technology

- ▶ Existing Information
- ▶ Online Research
- ▶ Intra-agency Outreach
- ▶ Interagency Outreach
- ▶ Industry Outreach



# Categorization of Identified Alternative Technology

- ▶ Categorization of **initial list** is by basic process properties:
  - ▶ Physical
  - ▶ Chemical
  - ▶ Biological
- ▶ Categorization of **final list** is by treatment type:
  - ▶ Physical Alteration
  - ▶ Chemical Alteration



# Identified Alternative Technology

## ► Physical

- Fluid-jet Cutting
- Vacuum Infusion
- Ultrasonic Bath Soaking/Disassembly
- Injection Soaking
- Cryogenic
- Pressure, Heat, and Passive soaking

## ► Chemical

- Detonation Chamber/Thermal Treatments
- Acid Digestion
- Supercritical Water Soaking
- Molten Salt Oxidation
- Electroknetic Remediation
- Reverse Osmosis Filtration
- Nanomaterial
- Chemical Reduction using Activated Hydrosulfide

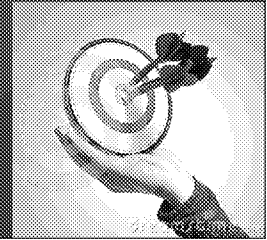
## ► Biological

- Bioremediation
- Phytoremediation

# Alternative Technology Evaluation Criteria

► Aspects of the treatment technologies were evaluated in the following manner:

1. Safety/Security
2. Environmental Protection (including residuals, reusability, etc.)
3. Compliance with Federal Laws and Policies
4. Effectiveness (including efficiency, throughput, etc.)
5. Cost (cradle to grave)





# Final List of Promising Technologies

- ▶ Available
  - ▶ Fluidjet Cutting
  - ▶ Improved Conventional Munition (ICM) R<sup>3</sup>
  - ▶ Detonation Chambers/Thermal Treatments
  - ▶ Conversion to Fertilizer (base hydrolysis with humic acid)
  - ▶ Bioremediation
  - ▶ Chemical Reduction using Activated Hydrosulfide
- ▶ In Testing
  - ▶ Nanomaterial Remediation
  - ▶ Vacuum Infusion

# How might these technologies be used?

- ▶ Either by itself (physical alteration):
  - ▶ Improved Conventional Munition (ICM) R<sup>2</sup>
  - ▶ Nanomaterial
- ▶ Or In tandem with another technology (chemical alteration):
  - ▶ Vacuum Infusion→ Nanomaterial, Bioremediation, Activated Hydrosulfide Chemical Reduction, or Conversion to Fertilizer
  - ▶ Fluidjet Cutting→ Nanomaterial, Bioremediation, Activated Hydrosulfide Chemical Reduction, or Conversion to Fertilizer
  - ▶ Detonation Chambers→ Nanomaterial, Bioremediation, Activated Hydrosulfide Chemical Reduction or Conversion to Fertilizer

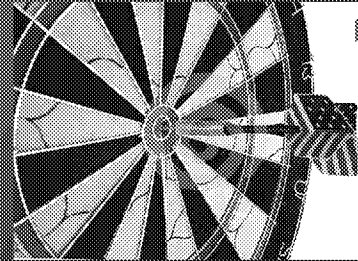
## Uses Continued...

### Dealing with Transportation Issues

- ▶ Mobile Units
  - ▶ Varying levels of portability
  - ▶ Useful for:
    - ▶ Emergencies and
    - ▶ On site treatment in limited access locations
- ▶ Stationary Units
  - ▶ Useful for:
    - ▶ Treatments requiring large spaces
    - ▶ Continuous waste streams and/or large quantities

# When should one be used instead of another?

- ▶ To make sure that the right technology is being used, one should take into account:
  - ▶ Level of Emergency
  - ▶ Type of Explosive Material
  - ▶ Scale of Problem
  - ▶ Cost



## Level of emergency

Area directly around explosive ordnance  
Age/level of deterioration of explosive ordnance

## Scale of problem

Size of explosive ordnance  
Volume of explosive material to be treated

## Type of explosive material

Improvised devices vs. military munitions vs. fireworks and other pyrotechnics

## Cost

Goes back to scale □ Municipality/local sheriff vs. large federal agencies

# Special Thanks

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